

REMARKS

The Office Action dated November 24, 2004 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 8, 12, 13, 17, 18, 22, 23, and 29 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claims 1-7, 27 and 28 have been cancelled without prejudice. No new matter has been added. Claims 8-26 and 29-32 are currently pending in the application and are respectfully submitted for consideration.

The Office Action indicated that claims 8-11, 13-16, 18-21, 23-26, and 29-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. More specifically, the Office Action stated that claims 8, 13, 18, 23, and 29 recite the limitation “the pair line” on line 2 thereof and alleges that there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims. Claims 8, 13, 18, 23, and 29 have been amended to recite “a pair line” instead of “the pair line.” Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is rendered moot.

In the Office Action, claims 1-7, 12, 17, 22, 27, and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bell (U.S. Patent No. 5,930,340). The Office Action also indicated that claims 8-11, 13-16, 18-21, 23-26, and 29-32 were objected to

as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 8, 13, 18, 23, and 29 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8, 13, 18, 23, and 29 are now in condition for allowance.

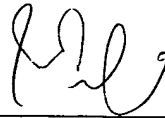
Claims 9-12, 14-17, 19-22, 24-26, and 30-32 are dependent upon claims 8, 13, 18, 23, and 29, respectively. As such, claims 9-12, 14-17, 19-22, 24-26, and 30-32 should be allowed for at least their dependence upon claims 8, 13, 18, 23, and 29, and for the specific limitations recited therein.

Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request that all of claims 8-26 and 29-32 be allowed, and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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